

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A magnetic film comprising:
2 a magnetic alloy T-M-X wherein T is selected from the group consisting of at
3 least about 90% Fe, Co, and Ni, M is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P,
4 Ti, V, Cr, Cu, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, Ru, In, Sn, Hf, and Ta, and X is selected from the
5 group consisting of N, O, and C; and
6 at least a single nanolamination of a material selected from the group consisting
7 of Al₂O₃, SiO₂, ZrO₂, yttria-stabilized ZrO₂, TiO₂, HfO₂, Ta₂O₅, Si₃N₄, AlN, B₄C, SiC,
8 Si₄N₄, Ta, Zr, and Hf.
- 1 2. A magnetic film according to claim 1, wherein T is Fe and X is N.
- 1 3. A magnetic film according to claim 1, wherein the nanolamination has a thickness
2 of approximately 0.4 to 1.7 Å.
- 1 4. A film structure comprising:
2 at least a first substantially crystalline layer of the compound T-M-X wherein T is
3 selected from the group consisting of Fe, Co, and Ni, M is selected from the group
4 consisting of B, Al, Si, P, Ti, V, Cr, Cu, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, Ru, In, Sn, Hf, and Ta, and
5 X is selected from the group consisting of N, O, and C;
6 nanolaminations of a material selected from the group consisting of Al₂O₃, SiO₂,
7 ZrO₂, yttria-stabilized ZrO₂, TiO₂, HfO₂, Ta₂O₅, Si₃N₄, AlN, B₄C, SiC, Si₄N₄, Ta, Zr, and
8 Hf;
9 said nanolaminations being contained within said first layer; and

10 at least a second layer of a material selected from the group consisting of Al_2O_3 ,
11 SiO_2 , ZrO_2 , yttria-stabilized ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , HfO_2 , Ta_2O_5 , Si_3N_4 , AlN , B_4C , SiC , Si_4N_4 , Ta ,
12 Zr , and Hf ;

13 said second layer being laminated adjacent to said first layer.

1 5. A film structure according to claim 4 wherein T is Fe and X is N.

1 6. A film structure according to claim 4 wherein each of the nanolaminations has an
2 individual thickness of approximately 0.4 – 1.7 Å.

1 7. A film structure comprising:

2 at least a first substantially crystalline layer of the compound Fe-M-O-N wherein
3 M is selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P, Ti, V, Cr, Cu, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb,
4 Mo, Ru, In, Sn, Hf, and Ta; said first layer contains nanolaminations of a material
5 selected from the group consisting of Al_2O_3 , SiO_2 , ZrO_2 , yttria-stabilized ZrO_2 , TiO_2 ,
6 HfO_2 , Ta_2O_5 , Si_3N_4 , AlN , B_4C , SiC , Si_4N_4 , Ta , Zr , and Hf ;

7 at least a second layer of a material selected from the group consisting of Al_2O_3 ,
8 SiO_2 , ZrO_2 , yttria-stabilized ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , HfO_2 , Ta_2O_5 , Si_3N_4 , AlN , B_4C , SiC , Si_4N_4 , Ta ,
9 Zr , and Hf ; and

10 said second layer being laminated adjacent to said first layer.

1 8. A film structure according to claim 7, wherein the nanolaminations have a
2 thickness of approximately 0.4 to 1.7 Å.

1 9. A film structure for a GMR head comprising:

2 at least a single layer of a magnetic film for the GMR head including:

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1 13. A method according to claim 11 wherein said first deposit target is a Fe-Al target
2 and said second deposit target is a Al_2O_3 target.

1 14. A method according to claim 13 wherein power in the range of about 100-400 W
2 is applied to the Al_2O_3 target.

1 15. A method according to claim 11 wherein said substrate is alumina-TiC composite
2 ceramic.

1 16. A method according to claim 15 wherein said composite ceramic is coated with
2 sputtered amorphous alumina.

1 17. A method according to claim 11 wherein said laminated films are N doped.

1 18. A method according to claim 17 wherein a N_2/Ar gas mix is used as a process gas.

1 19. A method according to claim 11 wherein said laminated films are O doped and N
2 doped.

1 20. A method according to claim 19 wherein a $\text{N}_2\text{O}/\text{Ar}$ gas mix is used as a process
2 gas.

1 21. A method of forming a film structure having at least a single layer magnetic film
2 comprising a magnetic material and at least one nanolamination of a different material,
3 the method comprising:

4 positioning a substrate under a first deposit target;

5 depositing a magnetic material from said first deposit target, wherein the magnetic

6 material is at least about 90% of Fe, Co or Ni;

